

FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

*on the Sanitary and
Housing Conditions*

For the Year

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L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

H. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.,
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

For the year 1946

To the Fylde Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I present to you my Seventh Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health. As the Council are aware, my period of office dates from 1st April, 1940.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.—The area of the Fylde Rural District is at present 33,159 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population as per the census, 1931 was 15,750, and the estimated population (1946) 10,490 : an increase of 600 over 1945.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population : Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1946... 10,490

Live Births :—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	161	85	76
Illegitimate...	13	6	7
	174	91	83

Birth Rate per 1,000	1946	1945	Mean for 1941-45.
estimated population :	16.5	23.2	18.9

	Total	Male	Female	
Stillbirths : ...	9	8	1	
Rate per 1,000 total	49	42		—
(live and still births)				

Deaths :—	Total	Male	Female	
	134	65	69	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population :	1946 12.7		1945 12.0	Mean for 1941-45. 12.2
Deaths from puerperal causes—	1946			1945
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ... ..	...	Nil.		Nil.
Other maternal causes ...	...	Nil.		1
	1946	1945		Mean for 1941-45.
Maternal Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	Nil.	4.21		1.94
Maternal Death-rate per 1,000 live births.	Nil.	4.40		2.02
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—				
	1946	1945		Mean for 1941-45.
All infants per 1,000 live births	34	39		43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...	18	33		—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ...	230	95		—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	19	12		—
Death-rate from Cancer ...	1.81	1.22		1.45
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.	Nil.		—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.	Nil.		—

Deaths from Diarrhæa (under 2 years)	I	Nil.	—
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages)	I	2	—
Death-rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System .	0.38	0.20	0.13

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	2	2	4
„ (Non-pulmonary) ...	1	—	1
Influenza	1	—	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	2	4
Cancer of Breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites ...	9	3	12
Diabetes	3	—	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	11	10	21
Heart Disorders	14	17	31
Other Circulatory Disorders	4	4	8
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Pneumonia... ..	—	4	4
Other Respiratory Disorders	2	—	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum..	2	—	2
Diarrhæa (under 2 years) ...	1	—	1
Other Digestive Disorders	2	5	7
Nephritis	1	1	2
Premature Birth	—	3	3
Suicide	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accident	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes	2	1	3
All other Causes	6	13	19
	<hr/> 65	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 134

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Ambulance facilities for the district are very good.

(a) For Infectious cases: The Moss Side Isolation Hospital has a Motor Ambulance for conveyance of patients to the Hospital. The Elswick Sanatorium has also a Motor Ambulance for tuberculous patients.

(b) For Non-infectious Patients ; and Accident Cases : A Motor Ambulance for the conveyance of necessitous non-infectious and accident cases is hired by the Council, when, required, from the Corporations of Preston and Blackpool.

There are privately owned ambulance services in Wesham, Preston and Blackpool which provide comfortable transport for those who can afford to pay the cost.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—These services are provided by the County Council and consist of a Minor Ailment Clinic for School Children, which is held every Monday and Thursday morning at Mellor Road, Kirkham, from 10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.

Child Welfare Centres are held at Mellor Road, Kirkham, 2.0—4.0 p.m. each Thursday ; and at the Methodist Chapel, Kirkham Road, Freckleton, every Monday, 2.0—4.0 p.m. The staff at these clinics consists of the Medical Officer of Health and Nurse Millner, Lancashire County Council Health Visitor.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.—These are held alternate Tuesdays, 2.0—4.0 p.m. A consultant obstetrician is in attendance at each session.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—Use is made of the Dispensary at Elswick Sanatorium. This is under the care of the Medical Officer of that Institution.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out in all Schools by the School Medical Officer acting under the County Council. One of the advantages of the new scheme is that the Medical Officer of Health for the area is responsible for the School Medical Inspections.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.—Treatment is given at the Preston Royal Infirmary, under a scheme operated by the Lancashire County Council.

The district is largely agricultural and is on the whole a healthy area. There are no occupations which one could term to be prejudicial to health. Employment has been good throughout the year, this is reflected in the continued improvement in the health of the children as demonstrated in routine medical inspections.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION : There are three Hospitals in the District, and one Sanatorium. The Fylde Joint Hospital at Moss Side, 64 beds, is used for Infectious Diseases. This hospital is used by the following districts: Fleetwood, Poulton, Thornton, Fylde Rural, Kirkham, Lytham-St. Annes, and occasionally by outlying districts.

Patients are not required to contribute towards cost of treatment. The cost of hospital treatment for infectious diseases to the Rural District for the year ending March 31st, 1946, was £95 os. od., and for the year ending March 31st, 1947, £92 os. od. The cost in bed days per patient being 2s. 10d. per day.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

There have been no arrangements made by the Local Authority for nursing in the home, but three separate District Nursing Associations operate in the district. Each employs one nurse, and is self-supporting, no financial obligations falling upon the district.

LABORATORY WORK.

The examination of specimens for the detection of the Diphtheria organism has been carried out at the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory. This Laboratory is also used for the examination of water samples and milk samples.

Specimens of sputum are sent to the Elswick Sanatorium for the detection of the Tubercle Bacillus.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious disease during 1946 was slight and calls for no special comment. Notifications of cases is occasionally belated and unsatisfactory. It sometimes happens that the case has been in hospital for 3-4 days before the notification reaches the Public Health Office. It is obvious that this delay tends to nullify the whole purpose and value of notification in the prevention of the spread of infection.

IMMUNISATION.

Children Immunised during 1946 :—

Pre-School.	School.	Reinforcements.
153	37	146

Total number of pre-school children immunised to
31st December, 1946 :—

Under 1 yr.	Age 1 yr.	2 yr.	3 yr.	4 yr.	Total.
16	83	119	127	102	447

Estimated population : 810 Percentage Immunised : 55%.

Total number of school children immunised up to
31st December, 1946 :—

Aged 5—9	Aged 9—14	Total.
481	450	931

Estimated population : 1,240. Percentage Immunised : 75%.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
DURING THE YEAR 1946.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Total Cases at All Ages.	CASES NOTIFIED.												HOSPITAL		
		Under 1.	YEARS.											Total Deaths.	Total Cases remov- ed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital.
			1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-35.	35-45.	45-65.	65 and over.			
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	7	...	...	...	1	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
Diphtheria, including Membrane- eous Croup	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chickenpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles and German Measles	48	...	6	2	4	9	26	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough... ..	11	1	2	...	3	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	71	1	9	2	9	12	33	2	...	2	...	...	1	4	10	...

HOUSING.

There are approximately 2,800 houses in the area. Some of these houses are unfit for human habitation and many more need extensive repairs and improvements to bring them up to modern standards. Owing to the scarcity of materials and labour, and the ever-rising costs, it was decided that it was impracticable to bring pressure to bear upon owners of unsatisfactory houses. There does not appear to be any immediate prospect of this situation improving.

No less than 380 applications have been received for new Council houses. In every case the application is due to overcrowding either in a legal or a moral sense, and in many cases the circumstances set out in the applications can only be described as heart-breaking.

The social and physical evils resulting from the presence of two or more families in one house are serious, and their results will manifest themselves for many years to come.

The allocation of new houses for 1947 is 80, which is pitifully meagre, and means that only the very worst and most intolerable cases have any hope of relief next year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notification of Tuberculosis in the Fylde Rural District is, usually, fairly good, and no action has been necessary with regard to wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

The district is under the care of the Medical Officer of the Elswick Sanatorium. Every week notifications of Tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the County Council. The Tuberculosis Officer visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and, where necessary, domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death, or removal to sanatorium, the dwellings are disinfected.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

AGE PERIODS.			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.										
0—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
5—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
25—	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45—	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	4	1	2	3	...	1	...	...
			5		5		1			

I wish once again to express my appreciation of the co-operation which is always freely given both by the members of the Council and by fellow-officials. I wish to place on record my regret at the retirement, due to ill-health, of Mr. Roscoe, Sanitary Inspector, and to express my appreciation of the unfailing help and willing service which I have always received from him.

Your obedient Servant,

L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Fylde Rural District Council

WESHAM.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Fylde Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my First Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1946.

The following is a Summary of the work carried out during the past year :—

Informal notices ...	...	...	...	51
Statutory notices ...	...	...	...	9
Legal proceedings ...	...	...	...	1

MILK SUPPLY.

This, on the whole, is good. Whilst a large quantity of milk produced within the area is sent to other districts, little, if any, is imported.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders are carried out by the Fylde Rural Authority.

There are 327 Cowkeepers in the area and 72 Registered Retailers of milk.

Milk sampling is carried out by this Authority, and, in addition, by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the County Council, and the neighbouring County Boroughs.

Of samples submitted by this Authority, the following are the results :—

Sediment Tests : No. of samples, 27. No. Satisfactory, 22.

Bacteriological : No. of samples, 22. No. Satisfactory, 18.

Tuberculosis : No. of samples, 22. No. Positive, 4.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 7 Licensed Slaughterhouses in the district, but these are still closed under the Ministry of Food Centralised Slaughtering Regulations.

FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year thirteen visits were made in connection with Food Inspection, and the following goods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Margarine	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	4 „
Flour	...	...	...	280 „
Cheese	...	...	...	8 „
Jam	...	...	...	82 „
Bacon	...	...	...	56 „
Canned Goods (Miscellaneous)				103 „
Total				589 lbs.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are nine bakehouses in the district, and the sanitary condition of these is satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Middens	...	...	...	...	...	1,060
„ Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	158
„ Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	1,470
„ Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	379
„ Movable Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	1,259
Conversion to Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	14

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no Offensive Trades in the area. Bye-laws were adopted in 1886.

FACTORIES.

The number of Factories on the Register at the end of the year was 63. Forty-one inspections were made ; defects, where found, being remedied after service of informal notices.

DISINFECTION.

The number of houses disinfected total 24. The rooms are all sealed, and bedding, etc., is hung up in the room and left for not less than 8 hours ; all washable articles are soaked for a further 24 hours in liquid disinfectant.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

No. of Nuisances found	...	...	19
No. of Nuisances remedied	...	...	17
No. outstanding	...	...	2

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937. **INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.**

PREMISES.	Number of			Occupiers prosecuted.
	Inspections	Written Notices		
FACTORIES with mechanical power	9	—	—	—
FACTORIES without mechanical power	32	3	—	—
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	41	3		—

DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
(1)				
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	3	—	—

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Being in close proximity to one of the most popular holiday resorts in the country, the administration in this area of that part of the Public Health Act, 1936, dealing with Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., presents no little problem. The position has been further aggravated by the existing difficult housing situation. The result is unfortunate in that vans, huts, shacks, and all manner of nondescript buildings are being erected all over the area, and it is impossible to have a full knowledge of the length of their occupation for human habitation. Most of these buildings are being erected upon unlicensed sites without any prior reference to the Council or its Officers, and their existence is only ascertained when any particular part of the area is being visited. Many of the erections are converted poultry cabins, bus bodies, army huts etc., and although the legal definition of a moveable dwelling includes the words "whether on wheels or not", most of these dwellings stretch the word "moveable" to the very limit. The original law, which, to my mind, was framed to cater for the holiday-maker and week-end camper, is now inadequate to deal with the position which has arisen since it was formulated.

The work of Local Authorities would be greatly assisted and more efficiently carried out if a stronger lead could be taken by the Central Government in drafting more clearly defined legislation, more especially a clearer definition of what does and what does not constitute a "moveable dwelling".

During the year 134 visits were made in connection with moveable dwellings. Nuisances and defects being remedied upon service of informal notices.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council undertakes scavenging and refuse collection in the Parishes of Bryning-with-Warton, Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck, Elswick, Freckleton, Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton, Medlar-with-Wesham, Newton-with-Clifton, Ribby-with-Wrea, Singleton, and Westby-with-Plumpton. In the Parish of Hardhorn this work is done by private hire, whilst no collection is made in the Parishes of Treales, Rose-acre and Wharles, and Weeton-with-Preese (approximately 160 houses).

Seven men and two vehicles are employed in this service, but three of the men and one vehicle have been engaged solely upon the collection of refuse from Service Camps in the district. This has thrown the whole of the civilian collections upon the remaining three men and one vehicle. One man is employed full time at the refuse tip, and one man is employed for the baling of waste paper, rags, tins, etc.

Refuse is collected in the parishes mentioned once fortnightly, but inclement weather, sickness and mechanical breakdowns to the vehicle have greatly added to the difficulties of the district collections. It is hoped, however, that the many complaints of the non-collection of refuse, and indeed, all the problems met with, will be overcome when the new refuse collecting vehicle ordered by the Council is delivered and brought into service.

The disposal of refuse is carried out by the method of Controlled Tipping as recommended by the Ministry of Health. The tip in use at present is almost filled, and will be closed when the necessary covering and levelling have been completed. A new tip has been acquired on Weeton Road, in the Parish of Wesham, and this should take the refuse for the next five or six years.

WATER SUPPLY.

The approximate number of houses in your district with a direct supply from the mains of the Fylde Water Board is 2,678. The approximate number of houses supplied from other sources is 137. The district is very favourably situated in this respect.

New Supplies during the Year :—

Private Dwellings ...	...	11
Agricultural Premises ...	...	3

About 60 per cent. of the houses without a public supply of water are in the Parish of Treales, for which a scheme has been prepared.

HOUSING.

(A) STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year...	...	26
---	-----	----

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) :—

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities...	...	...	...	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons ...	...	...	...	26

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

(i) By the Local Authority (included under (a) (i) above)...	...	...	...	...	—
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above)...	...	...	...	...	—

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	45
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..	83
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	11

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	21
--	----

Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936... ..	Nil.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 34

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) By owners 32

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.

(2) Number in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.

Housing Act 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... No recent Survey.

(2) Number of new cases reported during year... .. Nil.

Your obedient Servant,

H. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.



